

The Victorian Naturalist.

VOL. XXXIV.—No. 7. NOVEMBER 8, 1917.

No. 407.

FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 8th October, 1917.

The president, Mr. F. Pitcher, occupied the chair, and about sixty members and visitors were present.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From the secretary State schools flower show, asking for the assistance and co-operation of the Club at the forthcoming show to be held in the Melbourne Town Hall on the 19th inst., more especially with regard to the wild-flower exhibits.

Miss Nethercote, Miss Carter, and Mr. H. B. Williamson volunteered their aid, and the meeting endorsed the representation of the Club by these members.

From Mr. A. Rutter Clarke, stating, with regard to the report of the recent visit of the members to his Australian garden appearing in the current *Naturalist*, that the number of species cultivated had been considerably underestimated. He had tried more than 400 species, and had at the present time well over 300, with, in many cases, several specimens of the same species.

REPORTS.

A report of the excursion to the You Yangs on Saturday, 15th September, was given by Mr. C. Daley, F.L.S., one of the leaders, who stated that an enjoyable day had been spent. The eastern side of the range was drier than expected, but on the southern slope many species of flowers were noted. Birds also were fairly numerous, while the extensive view from Flinders Peak was greatly admired.

A report of the excursion to Noble Park on Saturday, 22nd September, was given by the leader, Mr. J. W. Audas, F.L.S., who stated that a large party took advantage of the fine afternoon to see the spring-flowering plants at their best. Owing to the locality being a little further from town (16 miles) than the usual scenes of excursions, the suburban builder is not so much in evidence, consequently, during the three-mile ramble to Springvale, a large number of species—between seventy and eighty—were collected. Among these may be mentioned the orchids *Lyperanthus nigricans*, *Caladenia Patersoni*, var. *dilatata*, *Glossodia major*, *Pterostylis nutans*, *Prasophyllum australe*, and *Thelymitra flexuosa*. Of other species seen, *Pultenæa dentata*, *Sphærolobium vimineum*,

Sprengelia incarnata, *Comesperma ericinum*, *Utricularia lateriflora*, were perhaps the most uncommon. The countryside was gay with the flowers of such species as *Ranunculus lappaceus*, *Pultenaea stricta*, var. *Gunnii*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, *Epacris impressa*, and *Ricinocarpus pinifolius*, which gave colour of various hues to the scene, and afforded ample opportunities to members to pluck for home decoration selections of their bush friends.

A report of the excursion to Diggers' Rest and Sunbury on Thursday, 27th September (Show Day), was given by Dr. C. S. Sutton, one of the leaders, who said that he had been prevented by indisposition from attending, but his co-leader, Mr. A. L. Scott, had reported that the attendance had been very meagre, and thought that, from experience on previous occasions, the arrangement of excursions for Show Day should be abandoned. Owing to the strong flow of water in Jackson's Creek, the *Diplograptus* beds were unapproachable. A fair number of botanical specimens was collected, while birds of many species were numerous and far from shy. The ramble disclosed some very picturesque country, which in early spring presents a very pleasing appearance.

ELECTION OF MEMBER.

On a ballot being taken, Mr. Gerald J. Morris, Tunstall, was elected an associate member of the Club.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Mr. G. A. Keartland drew attention to the extensive use of bird-lime by bird-trappers around the metropolis, and deprecated the practice very strongly, especially during the breeding season. He thought an endeavour should be made to have the use of bird-lime prohibited. His remarks were supported by Messrs. Blake, Keep, Currie, and others. It was resolved, on the motion of Messrs. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., and F. G. A. Barnard, to bring the matter under the notice of the Fisheries and Game Department, and ask that, if possible, regulations be framed dealing with the practice.

Mr. F. Chapman, A.L.S., said that he was wrongly credited in a recent *Naturalist* with bringing forward a note on the Onion Weed. The hon. editor explained that no name was attached to the newspaper cutting in question, but from the handwriting he judged it to have been handed in by Mr. Chapman. He took the opportunity of asking members to assist him in producing a true record of the Club meetings by paying more attention to the way in which notices of exhibits, &c., are made out.

The president referred to the gratifying success of the wild-